

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-2, 5-13, 16-24, 27-31, 33-45, and 48-55 were previously canceled. Claims 3, 14, 25, 46, 57, and 58 have been amended. Claim 56 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 14, 15, 25, 26, 32, 46, 47, 57, and 58 are presently pending in this application.

The status of the application in light of the Office Action mailed 23 December 2004 is as follows:

(A) Claims 3, 14, 25, 46, 56, and 57 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,645,682 (Skrovan).

(B) Claims 4, 15, 26, 32, and 47 have been allowed.

(C) Claim 58 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As a preliminary matter, on sheet two of seven of the Information Disclosure Statement (Form PTO-1449) submitted April 20, 2004, it appears that the arrow indicating that the references were considered does not extend through the last reference on the page (US Pat. No. 5,882,248 to Wright et al.). The undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner initial the final reference on the attached copy of sheet two, enter the initialed sheet into the application's prosecution history, and provide the undersigned a copy of the initialed sheet for the applicant's file. ✓

#### **A. Response to Section 102 Rejections**

The undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner for participating in a telephone interview on April 27, 2005. During the interview, the parties agreed to clarifying language to overcome the Section 102 rejection in view of Skrovan. However, the Examiner indicated that an additional search would be required to determine whether claims amended with the clarifying language are allowable. The clarifying language has been incorporated into claims 3, 14, 25, 46, and 57. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 4, 15, 26, 32, and 47, and for indicating that claim 58 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 58 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 58 is in condition for allowance. Although the undersigned agrees with the Examiner's conclusion that these claims are allowable, the undersigned notes that the claims may be allowable for reasons other than those identified by the Examiner and does not concede that the Examiner's characterization of the terms of the claims and the prior art are correct.


In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicant accordingly requests reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6477.

No fees are believed due with this communication. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge any deficiency in fees herein to Deposit Account No. 50-0665.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP

Date: May 3, 2005

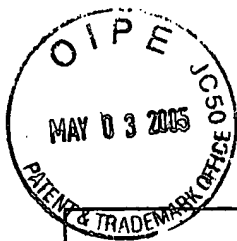
  
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Attachment

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Attorney Docket No. 108298539US1  
Disclosure No. 00-0448.01/US

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> Form PTO-1449 (Modified) (Use several sheets if necessary)				<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>	
				Application Number	
				Confirmation Number	
				Filing Date	
				First Named Inventor	
				Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name					
Sheet	2	of	7	Attorney Docket No. 108298539US1	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	U.S. Patent or Application		Name of Patentee or Inventor of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)			
A		5,655,951		Meikle et al.	08/12/1997	
		5,658,183		Sandhu et al.	08/19/1997	
		5,658,190		Wright et al.	08/19/1997	
		5,664,988		Stroupe et al.	09/09/1997	
		5,679,065		Henderson	10/21/1997	
		5,702,292		Brunelli et al.	12/30/1997	
		5,725,417		Robinson	03/10/1998	
		5,730,642		Sandhu et al.	03/24/1998	
		5,747,386		Moore	05/05/1998	
		5,779,522		Walker et al.	07/14/1998	
		5,782,675		Southwick	07/21/1998	
		5,792,709		Robinson et al.	08/11/1998	
		5,795,495		Meikle	08/18/1998	
		5,801,066		Meikle	09/01/1998	
		5,807,165		Uzoh et al.	09/15/1998	
		5,827,781		Skrovan et al.	10/27/1998	
		5,830,806		Hudson et al.	11/03/1998	
		5,833,519		Moore	11/10/1998	
		5,846,336		Skrovan	12/08/1998	
		5,851,135		Sandhu et al.	12/22/1998	
		5,868,896		Robinson et al.	02/09/1999	
		5,879,226		Robinson	03/09/1999	
		5,882,248		Wright et al.	03/16/1999	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
	1/31/05
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application(s).	